

# FACT SHEET | Improving Broadband Internet Access

*Building a Better Minnesota*

Minnesotans across the state depend on access to reliable high-speed broadband internet. In the digital age, reliable internet access is no longer a luxury – it is an economic necessity. Unfortunately, only 46 percent of Greater Minnesota households have access to high-quality broadband, making it difficult to compete in the global economy.

Due to the critical importance of border-to-border broadband, Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation in 2013 creating Minnesota's Office of Broadband Development. And this year, the Governor and the Minnesota Legislature invested \$20 million in broadband infrastructure development. These new investments will help all Minnesotans gain access to high-speed, reliable internet to help spur innovation and economic growth.

## Broadband Internet Matters for Minnesotans

- **Broadband Critical to Jobs.** It is imperative that Minnesota businesses have access to high-quality broadband to communicate with customers, complete orders, and keep pace with the global economy. Right now, a lack of high-speed internet access puts Greater Minnesota businesses at a disadvantage.
- **Internet Essential to Education.** In much of Greater Minnesota, internet service is expensive and marred by slow speeds and frequent disconnections. This makes it difficult for students to gain access to online resources and for schools to use new innovative tools and teaching methods.

## Border-to-Border Broadband

- **Broadband Infrastructure Grant Fund.** To improve access to high-quality internet, Governor Dayton signed legislation creating a broadband development infrastructure grant fund. The new fund will provide grants to groups in unserved and underserved areas including providers, local governments, and non-profit organizations.
- **Major Investment in Internet Access.** Legislation signed into law by Governor Dayton this session invests \$20 million in the new Broadband Infrastructure Grant Fund. This investment will help communities across Greater Minnesota gain access to high-quality broadband.

## Broadband Internet Access – By the Numbers

<b>\$20 Million</b>	The investment made by Governor Dayton and the Legislature in broadband internet
<b>\$1 Billion</b>	The estimated impact on the state's gross domestic product, if 95 percent of Minnesotans had access to broadband internet
<b>500,000</b>	Estimated number of Minnesota households that lack access to broadband internet
<b>8%</b>	Percent of households in the Twin Cities that lack high speed broadband internet access
<b>54%</b>	Percent of households in Greater Minnesota that lack high-speed broadband internet access